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PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

PATENT

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS BEING DEPOSITED WITH THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE AS FIRST CLASS MAIL, POSTAGE PREPAID, IN AN ENVELOPE ADDRESSED TO COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231, ON

NOVEMBER 25, 2002

Mark B. Quatt Registration No. 30,484

#1810matD
12/6/02
Examiner

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Ward et al.

Docket No:42978-01

Serial No.: 09/445,640

Examiner: Kim, Eugene

Filing Date: May 8, 2000

Group Art Unit: 3721

Title: Apparatus and Method for Making Bags of Different Dimensions

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TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

Response under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

Commissioner For Patents
Washington, D. C. 20231

Sir:

This response is being filed in response to the Office Action mailed August 23, 2002, which is due for response on November 25, 2002 (November 23 and 24 being a Saturday and Sunday, and therefore a holiday in the District of Columbia.).

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

25 (twice amended). A system for packaging meat products of varying size comprising:

- a) a first film roller, the film roller holding a first lay-flat thermoplastic film tube of a first width;
 - b) a second film roller, the film roller holding a second lay-flat thermoplastic film tube of a second width,
- wherein the first film width is different from the second film width;
- c) a means for selecting the first or second lay-flat thermoplastic film tube based on the size of the meat product to be packaged;